

The

Call Letter

April 2020

Vol 46, #4



A is for...

Dan Howard's Collage for "A" Themed Display

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 the Society has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of "Vintage Radio" and wireless equipment.

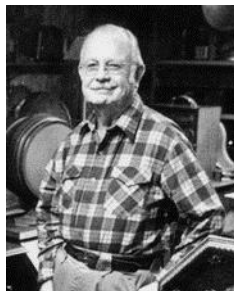
Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

The Call Letter has been a monthly publication since 1974. It was originated with the founder, Bob Bilbie, and our first president, Harley Perkins. Through several editors and with the assistance of numerous society members, the Call Letter has continued to be a publication that informs members of the society's business and that supports the hobby of collecting, preserving, and restoring vintage radios.

Society meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at the Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City, Oregon. They convene at or about 9:30 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and exchanging information. Guests are welcome at all Society meetings and functions (except board meetings).

Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio shows, and radio sales which are advertised in the Call Letter and are held in and around Portland.

With each issue of the Call Letter, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1999. A generous bequest from Jim's estate ensures the vitality of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, and continued publication of the Call Letter.



Society Officers

President	Pat Kagi 360 909-7009	patkagi@yahoo.com
Vice President	Franklin Ouchida	crazykeychains@gmail.com
Treasurer	Ed Tompkins (360) 573-3895	edtomp@Q.com
Recording Sec'y	Liles Garcia (503) 649-9288	landn2@frontier.com
Corresponding Sec'y	Mark Moore (503) 286-5224	mark@pdxhistory.com
Board member at large	Mike McCrow (503) 730-4639	soundmikey14@gmail.com
Librarian	Jeff LaDoe (503) 408-4446	flat4pdx@gmail.com
Call Letter Editor	Don Hanson 503 630 2720	vanguard4@lycos.com

On the Cover

Dan Howard's Collage for "A" Themed Monthly Feature Display

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Announcements

April 2020 meeting - Spring Sale / Swap Meet has been cancelled

May Monthly Feature - Radios with a "B" in their name

May Tech Talk - Mel Sutton on "Broadcast" Ham Radios

May Tube of the Month - Tubes with a "B" in their name

Leads and Needs - The Swap Shop is for members' classified ads.

Ads are free and can either be permanent or temporary.

Swap Meet Coordinator's Note - Anyone that has reserved tables for the Spring Swap Meet has the option to roll over their paid fees to the Fall Swap Meet, or have them refunded. Thank you, Robbie Robinson

Editor's Note - Please have May Call Letter contributions in by Sunday, April 26. Articles & Ads welcome. (Tube labels too).

(No Calendar of Events this month due to cancellations)

Visit our web site at:

www.nwvrs.com

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/nwvrs

President's Message for April 2020:

I hope and pray that everyone is well and able to keep themselves safe from becoming sick. I hope that we can all come together and help each other out during this crisis as I would like to think of you as not just members of a society, but more like family.

With that being said, I would like anyone to contact me directly if the NWVRS members are the closest people in your life that can come to your aid, if needed. This would apply to anyone who does not have any relatives either living or close by. We will keep a confidential list and contact you on a regular basis to check up on you. You can email me at patkagi@yahoo.com or call me at (360) 909-7009.

There are many people working behind the scenes to provide you with reading entertainment while we wait for the coronavirus to subside. We are also working on having a virtual meeting in the coming months, but you will need a laptop computer, smart phone or a land line to be able to participate.

Thanks and take care,
Pat

Vice President's Message for March 2020:

May Feature of the Month: "B" Subject

May Tech Talk: "Broadcast" Ham radios By Mel Sutton

May Tube of the month: Ballast tubes

Volunteer wanted!! Raise your hand!

Wanted Live YouTube back up!

We need a 2nd to help with the live stream. Willing to train an old Dog new tricks!

Share your knowledge! Do a Tech Talk!! Have many open!

Contact Vice President if you have ideas for Tech Talks or Speaker you would like to have us sponsor.

Members Needed for 2020 Committees: Contact Franklin

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It's just some thoughts. - Franklin Terry Ouchida

I found my IKE pin by Dan Howard



I was poking around my (unheated) shop this evening, going through a box of misc. stuff that had been packed since we moved 15 years ago.

I found my IKE pin (finally) after thinking that it was lost forever. I purchased it almost 30 years ago at a junk store in Bend. I couldn't take my eyes off of it but couldn't understand it either. I finally rotated it to the right position, read the Morse code, and forked over the \$.25 cents.

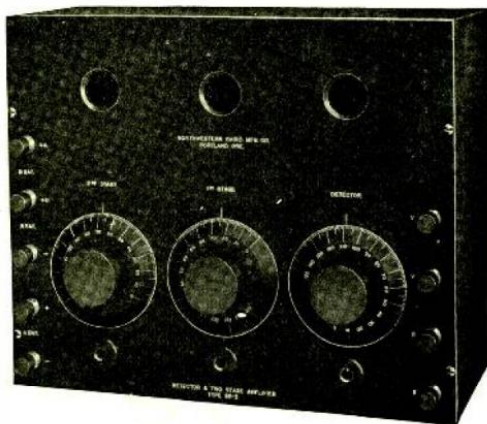
Northwestern SR-2 radio ad from 1921 from Art Redman

RADIO for DECEMBER, 1921

235

NORTHWESTERN RADIO

A Superior Line of Receiving Apparatus



Detector and two stage amplifier Type SR-2.
Size of panel 10 1-2x12 3-4. Complete less
tubes and battery \$70 f.o.b., Portland.

NORTHWESTERN RADIO MANUFACTURING CO.

1556 East Taylor Street

Portland, Oregon

A detector and two stage amplifier that will give you results. This instrument is in use in many stations in the Northwest and its performance is a proven fact. You must see this set to appreciate its value. Material and workmanship are the best.

Specifications — Panel quarter inch grade XX bakelite dilecto. Gorton pantograph engraving. Oak Cabinet finished in flomish oak.

Knobs and dials are machined from sheet bakelite and turn TRUE. All socket supports are constructed of bakelite and cast aluminum.

Write for Catalog

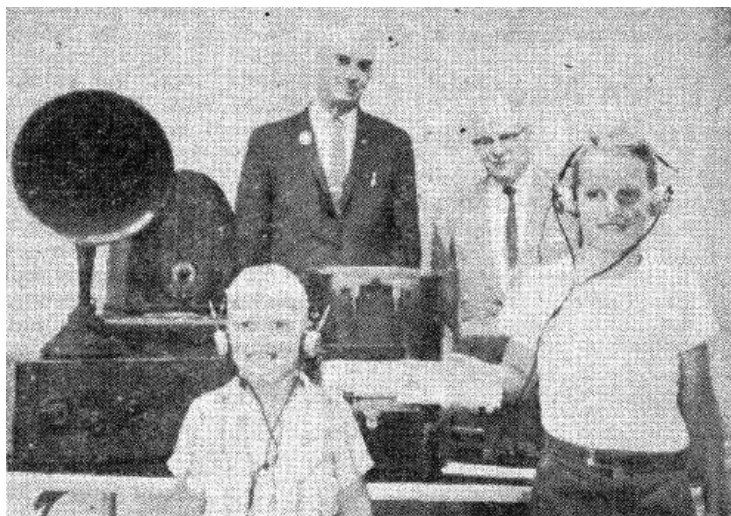
World Radio Day 2020

By Dan Howard

Did you miss it? World Radio Day 2020 was celebrated on February 13.

In 2013, UNESCO (United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) designated February 13th to “draw attention to the unique value of radio, which remains the medium to reach the widest audience and is currently taking up new technological forms and devices.”¹ Since then it has been observed annually on the February 13th, the day that United Nations Radio was established in 1946.²

Similarly-named “National Radio Month” dates back to the 1950’s and was an effort by the 2,000 member stations of the National Association of Broadcasters to promote for-profit radio at a time when television was beginning to make inroads into their market. Themes such as “Radio, the best sound around,” and “Radio is Beautiful” were promoted during the month of May to boost radio advertising sales. Stations across the country received promotional kits that included LP’s with jingles to be broadcast throughout the month. As FM stations became more widespread, special promotional materials were made available that included stereophonic recordings.



*Figure 1 -
Ball Brothers
with their
winning entry*

*Billings County
Pioneer
July 7, 1961*

¹ [IASA-web.org/event/world-radio-day-2020](https://iasa-web.org/event/world-radio-day-2020)

² [Un.org/en/observances/radio-day](https://un.org/en/observances/radio-day)

As part of the annual month-long promotion, stations were encouraged to “go further,” promoting National Radio Month through various creative contests and publicity stunts. In 1961, KBOM (Billings MT) staged an “Oldest Radio” contest. The Ball brothers won the contest with their entry of a working one-tube Aeriola Senior (then about 40 years old). Following the contest, the brother’s donated the set to the Montana historical society. Other working sets were donated to charities such as the local hospital.



Figure 2 shows Anita Norfleet, WSOY (Decatur, IL), listening to an Atwater Kent Model 9 breadboard. 125 sets were entered in the station’s 1971 National Radio Month contest to find the oldest working radio in their listening area. Of all the radios shown, this one looks like the sure winner.

Figure 2 - Anita Norfleet helps judge KSOY's Radio Month contest.

*AP WIREPHOTO
(author's collection)*

Patent 1,302,344

By Dan Howard

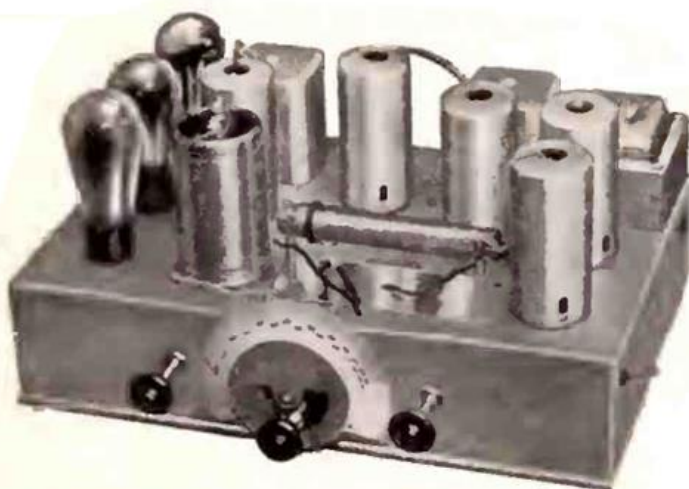


Figure 3 - 1931 Gilfillan Model 200

When I found the Gilfillan at a Newberg estate sale, the fifty-year-old set still had some life in it. And I played it occasionally in our tiny on-campus apartment to entertain my schoolmates. Though I knew little about it, I liked its styling and was intrigued by the unusual carving on the front.

Fast-forward another, almost forty years, and the Gothically-decorated lowboy hasn't been plugged in for decades. Whether it was the cool damp weather, or the rules against going out, something kicked in this morning and I thought I'd see if I could learn anything more about the Gilfillan. In fact, until today, I didn't even have a model number for it and I'd never see it in any collector's books.

Well, between the two "titan" internet radio sites "Radio Museum" and "American Radio History" (and a stray patent number), several questions were answered. And, I learned something new about radio manufacturing.



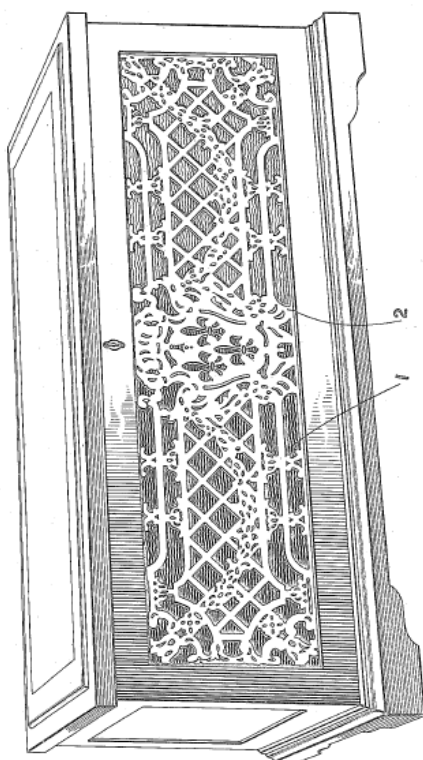
The chassis is full-size, ruggedly and powerfully built. It is 17 inches wide, 11 inches deep and 10 inches high. It uses one UY 227 oscillator, four UY 235, super-control screen grids, two UX 247 power pentodes and one UX 280 full wave rectifier. A full 12 inch Jensen Dynamic speaker gives superb quality on both low and high notes.

Figure 4 - Gilfillan Model 200 chassis "Radio Doings" 10/1931 pg. 47.

The Gilfillan console has almost no markings on it, but the tubes and lowboy styling clearly mark it as a product of the Great Depression. The escutcheon on the front and the RCA license label on the chassis identify the maker as Gilfillan Bros Inc., Los Angeles but give no model number. A tiny repair sticker on the back from General Radio Headquarters (47 E 7th Ave Eugene) indicates that the set was (presumably) traded-in in the fall of 1932, tested, and resold used in May, 1933. It was a paper label inside the cabinet with "Patent 1,302,422" on it that finally told the tale.

J. A. FENTON.
ORNAMENTAL ARTICLE AND METHOD OF PRODUCING THE SAME.
APPLICATION FILED DEC. 1, 1917.

1,302,344. Patented Apr. 29, 1919.



Witness
H. Abraham

Fig. 1.

Inventor
JOHN A. FENTON
By *Harry C. Schwedler*
Attorney

Figure 5 - Patent 1,302,344 abstract

In 1917, John Fenton of Oakland CA, patented using sandblasting for producing “ornamental articles.” His process describes decorating wooden furniture by laying down a template with a cutout design and sandblasting-away wood in the holes in between. After sandblasting, the shielded surfaces remain smooth, while “the recesses between the portions in relief will have a roughened surface caused by numerous approximately parallel lines due to the grain of the wood...”³ Ah, this explains the distinctive, deeply-carved Gothic designs on the Gilfillan.

Equipped with latest type Super-Heterodyne Chassis installed in this very beautiful all-walnut cabinet. Sand blasting is used to advantage as a means of decoration. Measurements, 38" high, 25" wide, 14" deep.



Figure 6 - Gilfillan Brothers ad "Radio Doings" 10/1931 pg. 47.

³ Patent 1302344 abstract

Additional research on the Radio Museum site lead to an October, 1931 ad from *Radio Doings* magazine that identified the set as a Gilfillan Model 200 and confirmed that its walnut cabinet had been decorated by sandblasting. Never heard of such a thing. Molded designs like Repwood, sure. And applied moldings, fretwork, inlays, veneers, even faux finishes. But, never sandblasting. The effect is beautiful – somewhat like the effective achieved with wood burning tools. I wonder why we don't see more sets with this type of decoration. The Gilfillan Model 200 seems to have only been advertised briefly, and I've not seen another one like it.

Whether it comes out for our "C" (consoles or carved) display or "G" (Gothic or Gilfillan), I'll see if we can bring this big, heavy, beauty out to the club sometime for closer examination. No promises to play it, though.

Radiolaguy's Monthly Showcase - by Sonny Clutter

(No updates for April 2020 but always worth a look!!)



March 2020 - Pittsburg Radio Supply House model S.P.2

[http://radiolaguy.com/Showcase/RadiolaguyMonthlyFeature\(3-20\).htm](http://radiolaguy.com/Showcase/RadiolaguyMonthlyFeature(3-20).htm)

C. E. "Sonny" Clutter; AKA: the RadiolaGuy

Web Site: www.radiolaguy.com Email: radiolaguy@outlook.com

Swap Shop

Ads are free and can be permanent, or 3-month, with an asterisk added each month for tracking. Contact editor to extend.

Please contact the following members to be trained in Radio Repair:

Bruce Baur	503 708-4537	Milwaukee
Blake Dietze	360 944-7172	Vancouver
Mike McCrow	503 730-4639	Aloha
Sid Saul	503 869-5280	Hebo
Ed Tompkins	360 573-3895	Vancouver

WANTED: Radios made in Oregon. I do have some to trade. Thanks in advance. Dick Howard (503) 775-6697 dhoward27@comcast.net

FOR SALE: Hammarlund HQ-180 general coverage short wave receiver, 18 tube triple conversion. Plays well on all bands and in excellent condition. Asking \$165.00 or best offer. Ray Nelson 503 845-2897
<radioray39@gmail.com> *

WANTED: I'm looking for one Western Electric or perhaps one National Union 350B tube. Prefer NOS but used tested strong would be ok too. Yes I know these are rare and expensive! The tube would be used in a home brew single ended amp that I have. I have some radio tubes and lots of audio tubes for possible trade. Or if you prefer cash, that might work too! I can be reached at 541-747-2477 blueshound7189@comcast.net - Thank you for your consideration! Phil Rickel *

WANTED: Austrian Minerva receiver model 388 made in 1937-1938. The model number should be on the center column on the front bakelite housing below the magic eye but if missing will be stamped on the back. Bob Krassa bob@krassa.com or call 303-475-2824. Thanks!
(Member of the Colorado Radio Collectors Antique Radio Club) **

WANTED: Want to purchase a nice clean vintage, recurrent sweep (not triggered sweep) scope such as: Heathkit; O-10, O-11, 10 -10 or 10-4105 or something similar. Need not to be in working order but must be clean and very good and restorable condition. I will pay your fair asking price if you have what I am seeking. C. E. "Sonny" Clutter; AKA: the RadiolaGuy
Email: radiolaguy@outlook.com **

WANTED: I wish to purchase a 1942 Model 985866 Portable radio as pictured. Please contact me at 360 695-6349 or (C) 360 989-5981. The radio is ID'd by the Model # and the GM under the dial. - Ray Holland ***



WANTED: Hello fellow radio enthusiasts, I am looking to purchase a 1947 Learadio model 563 wood cabinet table radio as pictured. My grandfather had one and I've been looking for some time. So if you have one for sale or know of one please let me know! Thanks, Roland
Roland Smith
<spen.smith@gmail.com>

FOR SALE: B.F. Goodrich Model R459 AM + SW (big console) \$20
Call Robbie Robinson 503 810 0565 **

WANTED: I need the cable that plugs into the 6 pin male receptacle in the right picture. I also need the schematic for this unit. I have very little information about this unit except it will operate from household current or from a 6-volt source in an automobile. I would like to restore this unit and make it operational.
Raymond Holland, chev33radio@comcast.net





In times such as these.

I'm out of work like many of you. We will be for the foreseeable future. I miss seeing, carousing, comparing notes, and reminiscing with you. I hope you're staying safe.

I compiled my own newsletter from snippets of material from my history as a newsletter editor (one who has edited for 25 years) just for you to enjoy. It's FREE. Just download it and enjoy, until we can all get together again.. Stay Safe.

My gift to you in these trying times

Duke Korman



Visit Relivingradio.com

Follow the link

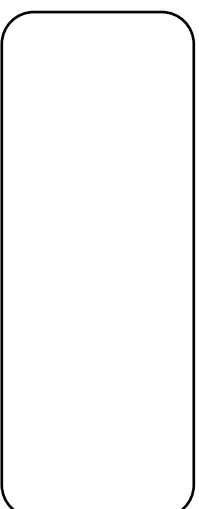
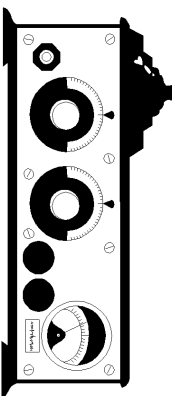


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